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MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE

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Prince MENZIKOFF,

L A T E

*Prime Minister* of RUSSIA, and

VELT MARSHAL GENERAL

OF THE

CZAR'S FORCES.

G I V I N G

An Account of his Rise at the Court  
of the late CZAR, and the Causes  
of his *Disgrace*.

I N A

LETTER

From a FOREIGN MINISTER at the  
COURT of RUSSIA.

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# MEMOIRS

OF THE

# LIFE

OF

WILLIAM

PICTURE



OF THE

CHARACTER

OF

AN ACCOUNT OF HIS LIFE IN THE COURT  
OF THE KING OF FRANCE AND THE  
OF HIS DEATH

IN A

# LETTER

TO THE  
COURT OF FRANCE

PARIS

Printed by G. Barthelemy, at the  
Museum of Natural History

# THE LIFE OF Prince *MENZICOFF*.



**E**RROR is natural to Mankind, and in nothing more apparent, than that Propensity towards Idolatry, which they discover upon all Occasions. In the darker Ages, this led Men to the Adoration of Stocks and Stones. In our more enlightened Times, to that of *Ministers of State*, and Men in Power; as the besotted Heathens imagin'd a Block which themselves had carved, to be possess'd of all Virtues, and ador'd the Idol, which ow'd its Worth to their Folly and Superstition. So, this more refined Age, first by their servile Flatteries, raise their Fellow-Creatures to a Tyrant, and then adore him for that Greatness which proceeds only from their Submission. Let the great Man project Schemes that are never so wild, if they succeed, Fortune is forgot, and the whole attributed to Wisdom and Understanding. His Madness is stiled Magnanimity; his Fear Caution; his

Treachery Prudence; Fawning upon those whom he wants, Affability; and his Haughtiness to such as want him, Circumspection and Gravity. Besides these, they find out ten thousand good Qualities in a Man which he never was Master of; and every lucky Accident, which he never dreamt of, is attributed to long laid Schemes, and his impenetrable Wisdom. An Instance of this has very lately happened in *Prince Menzikoff*. He, whilst Fortune smiled, was not only called a Soldier, but esteemed the greatest Politician in *Europe*. Whatever happened by Chance, or of Course, was attributed to his Wisdom, and all his Greatness was said to be owing to his own Merit. Yet, a small Reverse of Fortune shews that this great Man possessed no other Qualities but what any other in his Station might be Master of; so that it was the *Office* not the *Man* that did the Wonders.

Many are surprized that he should be able to maintain himself so long, in so high a Station, having sprung from so mean an Original; but this is the very Reason of it; for having been himself extremely necessitous, he knew how to apply to People's Wants; and so by the Help of Usurers, Scriviners, Brokers, &c. He managed most of the *Russian* Nobility, and bribed the Gentry by *Preferments* and *Places*.

In this Manner his Enemies blazon him, saying, That his constant Companions and chief Favourites, were generally such as I have mention'd; and amongst the Rest, that none had a greater Share in his Confidence than a Baker,

to



to whom he gave a considerable Place, tho' he had twice cheated his Creditors, by Bankruptcy. In short, wealthy Fools, (say they) or indigent Knaves were the only People he cared to deal with; and when he met with a Man of Merit, he was sure to get him sent on a *foreign Embassy*, or a *distant Government*. But it must be granted, he was a Man of excellent Abilities himself; was Master of a *plausible Way of Haranguing* tho' he spoke very *incorrectly*; but as he had an *uncommon Assurance*, he was never at a Loss, for Words, having little Regard to *Truth*, or *Argument*. He greatly affected *Openness* and *Sincerity*, was easy of Access, and prodigal of his Money (especially when he had any Scheme to execute, being, according to the Historian *alieni appetens, sui profusus*.) In short, all the good Qualities he was Master of, serv'd only to make a more consummate Villain. So that, what the great Roman Orator† says of *Catiline*, is very applicable to him. *Nemo est extra istam Conjuratorem perditorum hominum qui se non metuat, nemo qui te non oderit--- Quod facinus a manibus unquam tuis, quod flagitium a toto Corpore absuit?* Which is as much as to say, that every Body but his own Pack of Knaves and Fools were afraid of his Villainy, and hated him for it, well knowing that he would stick at nothing.

Thus much we thought proper to premise, in order to introduce the following Account, which is literally translated from the *French Co-*

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† Oratio in Cat.

py of a Letter wrote by a Foreign Minister at the Court of *Russia*, to his Friend at *Vienna*.

Prince *Menzikoff's* Extraction was as mean, as his Fortune was great. His Parents having bound him Apprentice to a Pastry-Cook. He used, during this Servitude, to go about the Streets of *Muscow*, selling a Sort of little Pies. He made a pretty good Market of his Ware, by Means of certain Songs, with which he entertained the People, who must be allured by Trifles: And this was all the Talent he was Master of. A great Number of Men daily go out of the World without being known, and even without knowing themselves; who, merely for Want of certain Accidents, failed of being great Men. But Prince *Menzikoff* was more fortunate.

One Day, when he was crying his Pies as usual, in the Streets of *Muscow*, he passed by near the Palace of the late *Czar*. This Prince, who was within the Distance of hearing him, diverted himself by listening to his Songs; and as he was likewise fond of Pastry, he order'd him to be sent for. The young Pye-Merchant obey'd, and went boldly, with his Basket in his Hands, into the very Closet of his *Czarish* Majesty. That Prince asked him, if he would sell his little Pyes, and his Basket, and how much he would have for them? The Boy replied, without Hesitation, That he had Power to sell his Pyes, but as for his Basket, he must ask his Master's Leave, before he could dispose of it; but however, as every Thing belong'd to his *Czarish* Majesty he needed only lay his Commands on him. This Reply pleased that Prince

Prince very much ; he immediately command-  
ed his first Minister to take him home with him  
adding, that he designed to make his Fortune.

But first of all, the young Pastry-Cook re-  
ceived his Money, and carry'd it Home to his  
Master ; and entering that very Day into the  
Service of the chief Minister ; His first Em-  
ployment was carrying his Bag to the Council.  
His Majesty, who saw him frequently, and  
used to divert himself with talking to him, was  
so pleased with his Wit, that he thought fit to  
place him about his Person, and made him  
Groom of his Chamber. He then had the  
Honour to lie in that Prince's Lodgings ; and  
he afterwards insinuated himself so much into  
his Good Grace, that his Majesty never re-  
fused him any Thing that he asked ; and when  
any Person had a Mind to obtain a Favour, it  
was necessary to apply to him. He readily un-  
dertook this Kind of Commissions ; and was the  
more bold in executing them, in as much as  
he never ask'd any Thing for himself. But  
however the *Czar* loaded him with Favours.

Whilst Things were going on thus, the chief  
Lords of the Court formed a Resolution of as-  
sassinating his *Czarish* Majesty. The Chief of  
this Conspiracy was *Prince Amilka* ; who was  
so near putting it in Execution, that on the  
very Morning in which the *Czar* averted the  
Stroke, his Throat was to have been cut in his  
Bed at Night. As it was very difficult to get  
into the *Czar's* Chamber, without having Con-  
federates there, *Prince Amilka* resolved to en-  
gage *Menzikoff* in the Conspiracy, by such  
Hopes



Hopes as were capable of alluring him. He therefore began with offering him great Civilities, which he repeated daily. *Menzikoff*, who did not guess at the Motive of this Affection, thought it was necessary to improve a Correspondence that did Honour to him; and accordingly he paid his Respects to the Prince at his House very assiduously; where he received all imaginable Civilities from the Princess *Amilka*, by her Father's Orders.

This was too great a Favour from so handsome a young Lady not to make an Impression upon *Menzikoff*; for he became desperately in Love with her. Prince *Amilka* being informed by his Daughter of the Progress which she made in his Affection, ordered her to make the best Use of her Conquest; telling her, that *Menzikoff*, being in such a Degree of Fortune, that he might pretend to the greatest Princesses, was not unworthy of her. This Declaration, and her Lover's Merit, disposed her to his Advantage. The feigned Caresses of the Princess became insensibly natural; and *Menzikoff* having seconded his Inclination by his Diligence in attending her; they communicated their Thoughts, and contracted so strict a Correspondence with each other's Heart, that they could no longer live asunder.

As soon as Prince *Amilka*, who watched them narrowly, had discovered so much as no longer to doubt of their having come to a perfect Agreement, he thought it a proper Time to make known to *Menzikoff* the Secret of the Conspiracy. And accordingly, he imparted



parted it to him, and accompanied this Token of Confidence with great Marks of Friendship, and Offers of Service, and especially, with giving him Hopes of one Day possessing the Princess his Daughter, if he would second him in this his Enterprize. This Proposal threw *Menzikoff* into such a Surprise, as is not easy to imagine. The Prince, tho' as much at a Loss what to say as he, did not give him Time to recollect himself, but insisted strenuously on the Reward he was to expect. However, *Menzikoff* desired twenty-four Hours Time to consider of it. But Prince *Amilka*, who knew of what Consequence it was to secure him, before he went out of his House, ordered his Daughter to try all possible Means of gaining him entirely, and Her Charms were but too powerful.

This wretched Lover enter'd into the Conspiracy, and promised to introduce the *Russians* into the *Czar's* Chamber, whilst he was in Bed.

But as soon as *Menzikoff* was got out of this House, where he was no longer Master of himself, he perceived all the horrid Circumstances of the Crime, which they would make him commit; and he resolved to break off his Engagement with them. In the mean Time, to prevent Suspicions of Prince *Amilka*, he expressed Abundance of Zeal for this horrible Conspiracy, and desired him to discover to him all his Accomplices; which the Prince promised to do at a proper Time and Place.

Some Time pass'd before every Thing was ripe for Execution. In the mean while when *Menzikoff* was alone, or with the *Czar*, he was ex-

ceeding thoughtful. His Majesty perceived it, and enquired the Reason. " What is the Matter with you, says that Prince to him, Are you not satisfied with your Fortune? Ask whatever you Desire, and doubt not of my granting it." This extraordinary Goodness made him tremble, The *Czar* perceiv'd the Alteration of his Countenance, and pressed him to tell the Reason of it. The Danger the Princess *Amilka* was in, caused a violent Struggle within him; but at length, Gratitude having got the better of his Love, he threw himself at the *Czar's* Feet, and discovered the whole Conspiracy to him.

His Majesty was at first seized with Fear; but recovering himself immediately, he order'd *Menzikoff* to rise, and told him, that if he could let him hear all the Circumstances of the Conspiracy, from the Mouth of the Conspirators themselves, he assured him upon his Word, that he would raise him to such a Pitch of Greatness, that there should hardly remain any Difference between them. *Menzikoff* promised to do it, begged him to dissemble the Matter, in order to prevent the Conspirators from perceiving that they were discovered, and protesting that he would serve him at the Hazard of his Life. Well, *Menzikoff*, reply'd the *Czar*, *Be mindful of your Fortune, and what you have promised me.*

*Menzikoff* continued to dissemble with Prince *Amilka*, and his Daughter; and there seemed to be nothing wanting to unite them entirely but the Marriage of the two Lovers. In the mean Time, as he was very impatient of satisfy-

ing

ing the *Czar*, he begged Prince *Amilka* to permit him to entertain the Princess at his House, and desired him to bring whom he pleased with him. The Prince gave his Consent, and appointed the same Day for the Entertainment, in which they were to determine finally upon the Execution of their Conspiracy.

*Menzikoff*, being overjoy'd at this Resolution, gave Notice thereof to the *Czar*, who order'd him to leave no Stone unturned, to make the Discovery which he desired.

The Day appointed for the Feast being come, the Princess *Amilka* came to *Menzikoff's* House, with her Father, and two other Chiefs of the Conspiracy. As Prince *Amilka* thought that no Body heard them but those who were at Table, he said to *Menzikoff*, in the midst of the Entertainment, pointing to his Daughter; *See there, my dear Menzikoff, see there the Prize of the Service which you will do the State, by affording us an Opportunity of killing the Tyrant.* *Menzikoff*, after thanking him for the Honour which he designed him, took Occasion from thence to enquire, who were the rest of the Conspirators; and the Prince named them all to him. In short, they settled every Thing that might ensure the Execution of their Conspiracy, which was fixt for the next Day at Even, and then the Company broke up.

The *Czar*, whom *Menzikoff* had hid with his Great Chancellor, in the very Room where the Entertainment was made; and had over-heard all that was said, caused the Conspirators to be seiz'd the next Day, being forty in Number, and every



every one of them to be immediately put to Death. There was none but the Princess *Amilka* who escaped, at the Intercession of her Lover; but she was condemned to perpetual Imprisonment. The *Czar* kept his Word as well as *Menzikoff*, and raised him afterwards to the highest Dignities, in Gratitude for this instant Service.

But however, *Menzikoff*, who had now fully discharged his Duty to his *Czarish* Majesty; was still engaged by his Passion. The Idea and Beauties of the Princess *Amilka* followed him every where, and he became extremely Melancholy. The *Czar*, who was always careful to let no Degree of Happiness be wanting to his Favourite, would needs know the Cause of his Grief. He reminded him what he had done for him, and offered to double his Favours, if it was possible: Adding, that if any Person had offended him, he needed only speak, and he should receive Satisfaction. *Menzikoff* being overcome with so much Goodness, threw himself at the *Czar's* Feet, and opened himself entirely to him. Sir, says he, Your Majesty daily loads me with Honours and Riches; but I cannot receive that Satisfaction from them which I ought, whilst the Princess *Amilka* languishes in Chains. I beseech your Majesty to grant her Liberty. She is innocent Sir; her only Crime is having obey'd a wretched Father, who sacrificed her to his Treachery. Be once more moved by the Sorrow which overwhelms her. I am not ashamed to own that I am so sensible of it, that I am ready to lay my Head upon the Block, if there was nothing wanting but my Death to procure her Liberty. The



The Czar was greatly moved by the Grief and generous Sentiments of *Menzikoff*, Rise, say he, with an Air of Satisfaction, *What you have done, and your Entreaty have deserved Favour for her; but that she may be worthy of it, I will have her marry you. Farewel, go to her, and let her not appear before me, until you are her Husband. I pardon her only upon this Condition. I have too great an Affection for Menzikoff*, adds the Czar, looking tenderly upon him, *not to have a Regard for his Wife.*

*Menzikoff* was so charm'd with his Prince's Goodness, that he gave him fresh Assurance of perpetual Fidelity, and promised to devote himself, and Family, to his Service, as long as he lived. His Marriage with the Princess being celebrated soon after, the Czar made him Prince and Duke of *Jingermerland*. And his Majesty, who had a great Affection for the Princess *Menzikoff*, whose Attendance he would have almost as great as that of the Empress herself, daily loaded her Husband with fresh Benefits; so that there was nothing wanting to their Happiness they having Children by this Marriage who were not unworthy of them.

Prince *Menzikoff* is at present about 48 Years of Age, has a very graceful Appearance, and was always of a very agreeable Temper. He treated all the Officers, who he had any Business with, as his Children, or near Relations. He is of a very enterprizing Genius, indefatigable, labouring Night and Day with such Diligence as is not to be equalled: And all the Czar's Favours how great soever they were, could not inspire  
C him

him with the least Tincture of Pride. He never forgot himself, but received every Body with extraordinary Kindness and Affability.

But tho' the Favours he received were great, the Service which he did his *Czarish* Majesty was likewise considerable; for to mention but one amongst a thousand others, it was to him alone that he ow'd the Success of the Battle of *Pultowa*. It was by his Stratagems, which he did not impart, even to the Prince himself, that the whole *Swedish* Army was forced to surrender at Discretion, and that the King of *Sweden* was laid under a Necessity of making his Escape, even at the Hazard of his Life.

To say nothing of his Dress, which was very stately, his Equipage was extremely magnificent; his Livery, which was blue, being almost covered with Gold-Lace. All the Vessels commonly used for his Table were of Silver; but when he entertain'd the *Czar*, or any Foreign Prince, he was served in Gold Plate. All the Gentlemen and Officers of his House were *Germans*, as well as his Pages and Trumpets.

Notwithstanding his Courtesy to every Body, his great Station, and the extraordinary Favours he enjoy'd, made several envious against him; but as he admired Virtue, even in his Enemies, there was nothing which he had not Recourse to, as soon as he discovered them, in order to gain their Friendship; and we have here two very singular Instances of it.

When the *Russian* Army was in *Ukrania*, they fell into some Irregularities by Prince *Menzikoff's* Negligence; several Generals murmur-

ed

ed at it; but there was none who durst inform the *Czar* of it. But however, a *German Officer*, to whom his Majesty had been very kind, ventured to do it, and the *Czar* by Letter reproach'd Prince *Menzikoff* with these Disorders.

The Prince made strict Enquiries in order to find out who had betray'd him; and having at length found out who it was, he sent for the Officer, and told him, that he was extremely desirous of being acquainted with him. That since he rather chose to expose himself to his Resentment, than suffer the *Czar* to be unacquainted with a Matter that so nearly concern'd him, he imagin'd that he must be a gallant Man; that he desired his Friendship, and to shew how well pleased he was with him for having done his Duty, even by accusing him, he begg'd him to accept of two thousand Ducats as a Present.

A *Swedish Officer*, who was wounded at the Battle of *Pultowa*, being no longer able to defend himself, by Reason of his Fatigue and Weakness, was forced to surrender Prisoner of War. Prince *Menzikoff*, who had been a Witness of his Valour, caused his Wounds to be very carefully dress'd. When this Officer was cured, he made him his Assistant General. And one Day, as he was talking with the *Czar* in Company with the Duke of *Holstein*, and several other Persons of the greatest Distinction, he espy'd this Officer, and calling him to him, he pull'd off his Peruke, and shew'd his Majesty the Wounds he had received in the Battle of *Pultowa*; which he accompany'd with abundance of Praises, and Instances of Kindness. Thus.



Thus did Prince *Menzikoff* behave himself to all those Officers who had performed any Gallant Action; so that if there were any who had Occasion to complain of him, it was not so much his Fault, as a Defect in human Nature, which is such, that let us strive never so much, it is impossible to please every Body.

Thus far have we seen the fair Side of this Prince's Character, and would not think it possible for one of such Endowments to be guilty of such Crimes as are laid to his Charge; but being now at the Head of the *Russian* Nation, his Enemies resolve his Destruction, and accuse him of amassing Wealth and Power; and of controlling and acting according to his *own Will* only; banishing the antient Nobility, by his single Authority, and assuming the sole Guardianship of their present young Monarch, and who (as a Writer has it) " Were determined  
 " no longer to bear the Insolence of this upstart  
 " Favourite; and accomplish'd his Ruin by  
 " Means of the Princesses *Nathalia* and *Elizabeth*,  
 " whom he had used very ill, and who  
 " for that Reason, spared no Pains to set the  
 " Emperor against him. "

The first Motive of his Disgrace was on the following Account, The *Czar* having received a Present of five thousand Gold Ducats, just out of the Mint, from the Merchants of *Peterburgh*, had a Mind to make a Present of them to Princess, *Nathalia* his Sister, and sent one of his Gentlemen with them accordingly; but Prince *Menzikoff* chancing to meet him by the Way, ordered him to carry the Ducats



cats to his House, and take no farther Notice of it, for that he himself would talk with his Majesty about it, the Servant did as he was commanded, and the Prince took no Notice all that Day of what had happened.

The next Morning the Princess *Nathalia* being in the *Cazar's* Apartment in order to Breakfast with him, as usual, his Majesty was much surprized that she took no Notice of the Ducats he had sent her the Day before, till losing all Patience, he resolved to mention them himself, and accordingly asked her how she liked them? she made Answer, that she knew nothing of what he was talking; whereupon calling the Gentleman to him, demanded of him, what was become of the Ducats he had entrusted him with, who replied, that Prince *Menzikoff*, met him and ordered him carry them to his House. The Words were scarcely spoke but the Prince entered the Apartment; whereupon the *Czar* ran hastily upon him, and demanded the Reason, why he hindered the carrying those Ducats to his Sister? The Prince told him, it was to put them into his Imperial Majesty's Exchequer, for he knew no Occasion the Princess had for them. With this the *Czar* grew warmer than before, and said to him: " Know that I am  
" *Czar*, and that I cannot conceive what you  
" mean by thus controuling my Pleasure, I am  
" *Czar*, and I tell you, my Power is absolute,  
" and I will always command what Money I  
" please."

It is unquestionable, but that having play'd his Cards so well, as to procure the Marriage  
of

of his Daughter to the Young Monarch, he carried it with a high Hand to the Imperial Family, and the whole Nobility: Some Letters mention that the Duke of *Holstein*, and the Imperial Court had a great Share in his Disgrace, the latter for two Reasons, “ 1. That they had  
 “ discovered that, that Prince was contriving  
 “ how to break the Alliance between the *Em-*  
 “ *peror* and the *Czar*, and to clap up an Accommodation with *another Court*, in Consideration of a great Sum of Money. 2. The Baseness of the *Alliance*, or *Marriage* of the  
 “ Young *Czar*, who is his Imperial Majesty’s  
 “ Nephew, with this Prince’s Daughter. But  
 “ all Accounts agree in attributing this sudden  
 “ Change in his Fortune, to his *insatiable Ambition*, and Thirst after *Riches* and *Power*,  
 “ which carried him so far, that he ruled in an  
 “ *Arbitrary Manner*, as if he had been Emperor.

These Proceedings could not fail drawing on him the Envy and hatred of the whole Nation, and ending in his Imperial Majesty’s Displeasure, who was now determined to pull down this overgrown Minister.

When he was first acquainted with the Business of those that went to arrest him, he answered, “ It was true he had offended God; but  
 “ that his Conscience did not reproach him with  
 “ any Action against his Imperial Majesty.”

The next Day he wrote a Letter to the *Czar*, acknowledging, that “ As a Man, it was possible he might have sinned against his Imperial Majesty, for which he asked his Pardon;  
 but

“ but that having served their late Majesties,  
 “ and his present Majesty, faithfully, for the  
 “ Space of forty Years, he begged that he might  
 “ be permitted to retire to his Estate, there to  
 “ end his Days. ”

This being granted, he set out for his little Town of *Oranjenburgh*, situate in the Neighbourhood of *Veroniza*; his Equipage consisting of four Coaches, drawn each by six Horses; forty-two Waggon with Baggage, and thirty led Horses; he himself being in the first Coach, with his Wife, and Daughter-in-law; his Son in the second, with a Dwarf; his two Daughters, with two Attendants, in the third; and his Wife's Brother, with some of the Court, in the fourth. The Coaches were followed by ten Chaises, drawn each by two Horses, attended with a Guard of one hundred and twenty Horse.

Before his Departure, he was obliged to sign a Writing, by which he promised not to hold any Correspondence with any Person whatever, was stripped of the Orders of *St. Andrew* and *Alexander Neefski*; all his Effects and Papers were sealed up, and the Jewels and rich Things which he had taken with him were brought back again, and his Estate confiscated for the Use of the Publick. The Princess his Daughter, who had been betrothed to the Emperor, was obliged to return the rich Ring which his Imperial Majesty had presented to her.

The Order permitting him to go to his Estate is since recalled, he having been charged with several Crimes of the highest Nature, and is to remain in Custody at *Cazan*.

It is said, above nine Millions in Bonds and Notes of foreign Banks were found among his Papers; and the Articles against him are chiefly included in the Eight following.

A R T. I.

**T**HAT He was the sole Cause of the Death of the *Czarowitz*, Father to the present Emperor.

A R T. II.

**T**HAT He prevented the late Emperor from removing his first Wife from the close Confinement she was in, to a more agreeable Place.

A R T. III.

**T**HAT He had misapply'd the Imperial Treasure, and by that Means amassed prodigious Wealth.

A R T. IV.

**T**HAT He reserved to his own Use half of the general Duties upon *Tobacco*, of which he was Super-Intendant, and which amounted to 600,000 Rubles Yearly.

A R T. V.

**T**HAT He falsely accused several Persons, who had faithfully served the Emperor their Master, and whom he nevertheless deprived of their Honours and Estates.

A R T. VI.

**T**HAT He set no Bounds to his Ambition, after the Death of *Peter I.* which appears by the Design of marrying his Daughter to the present Emperor, that he might obtain the Regency of the whole Empire, in order to reign alone, and suppress the Authority of all the other Councils.

A R T



## A R T. VII.

THAT with this Intention he laboured Night and Day to suborn the Army, and bring them over to his Interest; for when the Empress had not sufficient to pay the Army in her own Coffers, he always supply'd her with Money for that Purpose, by advancing very considerable Sums; which, however were repaid him with exorbitant Interest.

## A R T. VIII.

AND Lastly That he had put very considerable Sums in the Bank of *Amsterdam*, and that of *London*.

Such is the slippery Situation of the Darlings of Fortune; To-day they lord it over Mankind, and To-morrow are reduced to their primitive Nothing. And it is worth our Observation, that those who from mean Beginnings have been advanced to very eminent Stations, are generally so dazzled with their Height, that they frequently forget themselves; and so, by Male Administration throw themselves from their Pinnacle of Greatness. Instances of this are so common, that if every Minister was to be try'd but by these VIII *Articles* alledged against *Menzikoff*, the Chief Judicature of every Nation, would have Business enough with *Bills of Attainder*, to say nothing of *Pains* and *Penalties*.

The following Letter to the Duke and Dutcheß of *Holstein*, with the Declaration of the *Czar*, are necessary to the further enlightning this History.

*A Letter written from the Emperor of Russia to  
their Royal and Imperial Highnesses the Duke  
and Dutcheß of Holstein.*

**I** By these Presents, return Thanks to your Royal and Imperial Highnesses; for giving me Notice of your happy Arrival at the Place of your Residence, in your own Dominions, and of the joyful Reception which you received from your faithful Subjects. I hope that the Concern which my whole Court, as well as the Imperial Family are in for losing you, may be turned into Joy and Rejoycing for you, on Account of the extraordinary Satisfaction which your Subjects receive from your coming amongst them.

As your Royal and Imperial Highnesses greatly partake in whatever relates to the Welfare of my Empire, as being Regents with me, I thought myself obliged to inform you, that it is now three Days since I discovered a Design that would have been very dangerous to my Person, and to all the Imperial Family, and which will surprize all the World. The wicked and presumptuous *Knez Menzikoff*, who owes to the *Czar* my Grandfather, to the *Czarina* my Grandmother, and to my self, all his Fortune, and the immense Riches which he hath amassed, and which exceed, if I may so speak, even the Imperial Treasure; hath not only with the greatest Insolence presumptuously refused to pay a due Respect to my Imperial Majesty, but also to have less Deference and Consideration for their Imperial Highnesses, my dear Sisters, than for his own Daughter; to say nothing of innumerable other Crimes, which may justly be called Treason.

But that this evil Tree may be pulled up by the Root, the Council hath pronounced Sentence against this Traitor, by which he is deprived of his Titles, (however without comprehending therein his

his Wife and Children) in order to hinder his Memory from being carry'd down to Posterity; and that the Riches which he hath unjustly amassed, may return to the Royal Treasury, from whence he plundered it.

I doubt not but that this Sentence, which hath passed according to Law, will be agreeable to your Royal and Imperial Highnesses; and so much the more as your Honour is therein concerned, that having been likewise injured by this ungrateful and wicked Man, *who under the specious Form of Plainness and Sincerity, was capable of Deceiving all Mankind.*

In short, I again Protest once more, both as a good Friend and a Brother, that I still continue in the same Sentiments, as before we parted, and assure you not only of my whole Fleet and Army; but even the Imperial Treasure for your Highnesses Service.

I conclude with my earnest Wishes, that we may speedily have the Satisfaction of seeing each other in Good-Health, and of mutual Embracing. Recommending your Royal and Imperial Highness to the Divine Protection; I am, and shall remain as long as I live.

Petersburgh Sept.  
11th 1727. and  
of my Reign  
the 1st.

*Most Serene, &c.*

Peter Alexowitz.

*Second Emperor, and Great Duke.*

*A Declaration of his Czari<sup>n</sup> Majesty publish'd  
Sept. 29th, O. S. by Beat of Drum, and  
fixed up in all publick Places of Petersburgh.*

**B**y the Grace of God. We Peter II. Emperor and  
Autocrat of all Russia, &c. &c. &c.

As we have most graciously resolved from this  
Time forward, to assist in Person, at our usual Privy  
Council, and to dispatch all Orders our Self, with  
the Assistance of our Privy Council; We Decree by  
these Presents, and it is our good Pleasure, that no  
Order of any Nature, or under any Preterence what-  
soever, that may have been written or dispatched,  
especially by Prince Mensikoff, or by any other Per-  
son, be either received or executed, on Pain of our  
Displeasure. This Order shall be Published through-  
out the whole Extent of our Empire, and particu-  
larly in our Armies; and a faithful Account shall  
be given from all Places to our Privy Council, of  
the Publication that hath every where been made  
thereof.

*Given in our Privy Council;  
Sept. 8th, 1727.*

(L. S.)

PETER.

The Original is Signed by the Czar's own Hand.

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F I N I S.



